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Fontana Man Charged With Attempting to Kill CHP Officer

A Fontana man was charged today with trying to kill a California Highway Patrol officer during a traffic stop last week in West Covina, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

John Alfred Garcia (dob 1/22/85) was charged in case KA110677 with one count each of attempted murder of a peace officer, assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm and fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly.

The complaint also alleges Garcia personally and intentionally discharged a semiautomatic shotgun that caused great bodily injury to the officer.

Garcia is expected to be arraigned tomorrow in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, West Covina Branch.

Deputy District Attorneys Jacques Garden and Robert Serna of the Crimes Against Peace Officers Section are prosecuting the case.

On Sept. 11, CHP Officer Felix Serpas attempted to pull over Garcia who was driving an SUV in West Covina. As the officer approached the vehicle, Garcia allegedly opened fire, wounding Serpas.

A high-speed chase ensued that ended in Fontana when Garcia crashed into a field. Garcia was wounded in a shootout with CHP officers and taken to a hospital.

Prosecutors are recommending bail be set at \$2.075 million.

If convicted as charged, Garcia faces a possible maximum sentence of 40 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by CHP.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.